



# Montgomery County Council

---

**For Immediate Release**

---

**January 23, 2001**

---

N  
E  
W  
S  
  
R  
E  
L  
E  
A  
S  
E

Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 or Jean Arthur 240-777-7934

***Would extend "gun-free" areas, cut off County funding for gun show sponsors...***

## **EWING BILL STRIKES BACK AGAINST GUN SHOWS IN COUNTY**

Council President Blair Ewing today introduced legislation to place further limits on future "gun shows" in the County and cut off any County funding of organizations or institutions sponsoring such shows.

The legislation, co-sponsored by Council Vice President Steve Silverman and Councilmember Derick Berlage, would prohibit the sale, transfer, possession or transportation of certain weapons at or within 100 yards of a multipurpose exhibition facility, such as a fairgrounds or conference center.

County law already prohibits such sales or transfers within 100 yards of a place of worship, elementary or secondary school, public library, or government-owned or operated recreational facility.

In addition, the measure would ban any future County financial support to any organization that allows the display and sale of guns at a facility owned or controlled by the organization.

"This is a reasonable and prudent measure designed to reduce the easy availability of guns," said Council President Ewing, as leaders of Montgomery's Million Mom March chapter looked on. "It is particularly difficult to be sure that gun control regulations are being followed at a gun show. And public dollars shouldn't help support gun shows."

The issue was recently joined when Silverado Productions held a gun show last October at facilities at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds,  
(more...)

*page two*

though not government-owned, has received \$470,000 in funding from the County since 1998 -- \$250,000 directly from the County for renovations and \$220,000 for other improvements through the County-funded Montgomery Arts Council. Though the Fairgrounds is in the municipality of Gaithersburg and thus would not be covered at present by this legislation, any future gun shows there would result in a prohibition on future County funding should this measure be approved.

The County conference center on Rockville Pike, approved but not yet under construction, would be covered by the direct prohibition on gun shows.

A public hearing will be held on the legislation on Thursday, February 15 at 7:30 PM at the County Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue in Rockville.

# # #